

**From:** Kris Courter  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 10:41am  
**Subject:** Microsoft%20Settlement

I have to say, I'm utterly displeased with his proposed settlement. I work in the IT industry and see many good products stifled and consequently smashed due to Microsoft's anticompetitive behavior. It's one thing to be on top because your products are top notch. It's another to produce mediocre products, squash the competition through slander, libel, and purposeful incompatibilities between MS and third party vendors. Recently, Novell sued Microsoft for spouting lies about Novell dropping support and development for NetWare and saying they should jump ship to Microsoft instead.

Microsoft has repeatedly broken antitrust law and needs to be punished accordingly. I find the "school settlement" horrible. Giving software to these schools costs Microsoft virtually nothing, yet you use the street value as a factor in the fine.

Maybe they should be broken up. AT&T was broken up several times, sometimes involuntarily and other times voluntarily, and it's doing just fine.

At any rate, something more extreme needs to be done other than this slap on the wrist and saying "Bad Microsoft. Don't do it again."

Perhaps if Microsoft is forced to be competitive, we can get better products from them, and other alternatives such as Linux can flourish. Protecting Microsoft's monopoly with this settlement will not do the public any good, and only further hamper competition in the IT marketplace.

Sincerely,

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